Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSF-01
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 /130 W
----------046554 020810Z /10
O R 020635Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO AMEMBASSY SUVA NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3333
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0834

TOKYO FOR RFD

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, XP, PP
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

REFS: A) SUVA 909 B) STATE 139015

1. BODDE AND EMBOFF MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY SABUMEI, FOLLOWED BY LONG SESSION INCLUDING BODDE, HOWELL, EMBOFFS, DABB AND LAVENDER. SPRFA DISCUSSED AT GREAT LENGTH. JUDGING FROM MOVEMENT REPORTED OVER LAST TWO WEEKS AND TODAY'S DISCUSSIONS, WE SEE CURRENT GPNG POSITION AS FOLLOWS:
A. PNG WILL ARGUE INITIALLY THAT ITS BASIC POSITION IS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNCHANGED. IT WANTS SPRFA TO BE A FORUM ORGANIZATION, AS CONCEIVED ORIGINALLY BY PNG, ONE RECOGNIZING COASTAL STATE JURIDICTION OVER HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES IN EEZ, AS PER AUGUST 1977 FORUM DECLARATION.
B. HOWEVER, FLEXIBILITY WE HAVE REPORTED LAST TWO WEEKS IS EVIDENT. SABUMEI, WHO WILL HEAD SUVA DELEGATION SAID REPEATEDLY, "I THINK WE CAN WORK IT OUT". ENSUING

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CONVERSATIONS WITH DABB AND LAVENDER INDICATED THEY WANT
TWO ORGANIZATIONS. FIRST, THEY WANT SPRFA AS PRESENTED
BY THEM ORIGINALLY. THIS IS PART A FACE SAVER WHICH
WOULD ENABLE POLITICOS TO PLAY UP LOCALLY THEIR SUCCESS
IN STANDING UP TO LARGE POWER AND PRESERVING INTEGRITY,
AS THEY SAW IT, OF A TRUE REGIONAL GROUPING OF COASTAL
STATES. THIS IS BOTH A POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
NEED. SECOND, THEY ARE WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND WORK
OUT AN ARTICLE 64 ORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH HIGHLY
MIGRATORY SPECIES. IN ESSENCE, THIS WOULD BE DESIGNED TO
GIVE U.S. SOMETHING IT CAN LIVE WITH.

2. IF THRUST OF TWO AGENCY APPROACH ACCEPTABLE TO U.S.,
IT OBVIOUS NEXT STEP IS TO WORK OUT SPECIFIC TERMS OF
HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES COMMISSION (OR WHATEVER NAME IS
USED). DABB AND LAVENDER TODAY, AS WILSON HAD DAY BEFORE,
SAID PNG COULD GO INTO ARTICLE 64 TYPE ARRANGEMENT BUT
WANTED TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT U.S. DESIRED, BASICALLY WITH
RESPECT TO LICENSING DETAILS AND CONDITIONS OF ACCESS.
WE COULD NOT PROVIDE BUT SUGGESTED THIS COULD BE
DISCUSSED IN PRIOR MEETING OF OUR TWO DELS ON JUNE 4.

3. SHOULD U.S. AND PNG REACH SOME AGREEMENT, MUCH
SPADEWORK WOULD HAVE TO BE DONE WITH OTHER
DELS, BOTH IN ASSUAGE SUCH AS WESTERN SAMOA AND TO
EDUCATE, AS WITH SOLOMON ISLANDERS WHO, ALTHOUGH GETTING
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A CLEARER PICTURE LITTLE BY LITTLE, PROBABLY WOULD BE
CONFUSED BY WHAT WOULD SEEM TO THEM TO BE RADICALLY
NEW APPROACH.

4. STATE 139015 ARRIVED AS THIS BEING DRAFTED. DABB'S
ABSENCE IS STRICTLY DUE TO VITAL TORRES STRAIT NEGOTIATION.
PRESENCE OF ACTING FONSEC SABUMEI INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE
SUVA MEEING TO PNG. DELEGATION HAS NOT BEEN DOWNGRADED.
REFTEL A REPORTED AUSTRALIANS HAD SAID DABB DISAPPOINTED
WITH LAVENDER'S PERFORMANCE IN MAY. FREQUENT CONVERSATIONS
WITH BOTH HAVE GIVEN NO SUCH IMPRESSION. DABB
DID TELL US LAVENDER WAS NOT GIVEN NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY
AND THAT WHAT SEEMED TO BE RIGIDITY ON PART LAVENDER WAS
DUE TO THAT AND SOME PERSONALITY CONFLICTS WHICH PUT
LAVENDER INTO POSITION OF DEFENDING ISSUES MORE STRENUOUSLY
THAN HE WOULD HAVE NORMALLY.

5. IN SUMMARY, WE BELIEVE GPNG WANTS TO HAVE SPRFA ON
ITS CONDITIONS WHILE ACCEPTING SEPARATE AGENCY TO HANDLE
MIGRATORY SPECIES IN MANNER SATISFACTORY TO US. BELIEVE
ALSO ITS DELEGATION READY TO WORK OUT DETAILS IF THIS
APPROACH ACCEPTABLE TO U.S.

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